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FINAL

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INSIDE: BLACK WIDOW PRISON BREAK? "ZOMBIE THOR" IN ARIZONA? NEW MS. MARVEL?

BLINDED BY THE FIGHT

After encountering Daredevil and The Punisher in New York, the Superior Spider-Man led them to his new base of operations, Spider-Island. Upon arriving, though, the Webbed Wonder, the Man Without Fear and...The Punisher discovered Spider-Man's cache of resources and weapons had been stolen! As if that wasn't bad enough, the Spider-Patrol, made turncoat by an unknown manipulator, launched an ambush against a bewildered Spider-Man and Daredevil! The Punisher didn't seem to mind.

GOING GREEN

Prior to the ambush at Spider-Island, one of the Spider-Patrol was spotted wearing some kind of explosive vest – Could the bombs rigged to his chest be a clue as to who is meddling with Spider-Man's life? Probably.

KEVIN SHINICK
WRITER

MARCO CHECCHETTO
ARTIST

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
COLOR ART

VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

PAOLO RIVERA
COVER

DEVIN LEWIS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

ELLIE PYLE
EDITOR

STEPHEN WACKER
SENIOR EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

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BETRAYAL.
IT'S A PAINFUL REALIZATION, BECAUSE UNLIKE BULLYING IT'S PERSONAL.
HA HA HA HA HA
JUST LIKE IT WAS WHEN I WAS TEN AND TWO NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS PRETENDED TO BEFRIEND ME, JUST SO THEY COULD GET A LAUGH OUT OF THE SCHOOL CROWD.
THIS WAS BEFORE I WAS SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN. BEFORE I WAS DOCTOR OCTOPUS. WHEN I WAS MERELY OTTO OCTAVIUS.
BACK THEN MY DEFENSE WAS TO RETREAT TO MY ROOM; MY HAPPY PLACE, AMONG MY BOOKS AND PRIZED POSSESSIONS. I FELT PROTECTED THERE. SECURE.
AS I GOT OLDER I WOULD SWAP THAT FEELING FOR POWER! FOR REVENGE! AND THAT QUIET HAVEN WOULD GET BURIED SO DEEP THAT I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT IN YEARS.
I MENTION IT NOW, BECAUSE DESPITE THE DECADES OF MEMORIES I POSSESS, MINE, AND A FEW OF PARKER'S...

THAT SANCTUARY IS THE ONLY PLACE I WANT TO BE.
I CALL MYSELF THE *SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN*, BUT THE TRUTH IS I'VE BEEN DUPED.
ON TOP OF DISCOVERING THAT MY ARSENAL OF WEAPONS HERE AT SPIDER-ISLAND HAD BEEN *STOLEN*, A SUICIDE BOMBER THEN TRIED TO BLOW THE PLACE UP.
DAREDEVIL, PUNISHER AND I TOOK DOWN THE TRAITOR, BUT NOT BEFORE HE DROPPED AN EVEN BIGGER BOMB: THE FACT THAT MY ENTIRE CREW IS TAKING ORDERS FROM SOMEBODY ELSE.

SMACK!
MY MIND IS WHIRLING WITH QUESTIONS. CONFIDENCE SHAKEN. THE BOMBER SAID I'VE ALREADY HELPED "HIM," BUT DIDN'T REVEAL WHO! SO NOW I DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST.
CLEARLY NOT MY MEN.
DAREDEVIL? HE'S BEEN LEERY OF ME SINCE I BECAME SPIDER-MAN.
PUNISHER? SURE, HE WAS BLINDED BY A FLASH BOMB, BUT THAT'S JUST THE SORT OF THING HE'D DO TO LESSEN SUSPICION.
SO THE ANSWER?
TRUST NO ONE!
THWIP
SNAP!

GOTCHA!
GET OFF OF ME!
SMACK!
STOP IT! I KNOW YOU'RE RATTLED, BUT WE HAVE TO WORK--
CASTLE! BEHIND YOU!
BAM!
--TOGETHER!
NO! I'M NOT TRUSTING ANYONE I'M NOT SURE OF.
NOT SURE OF?! I JUST GUIDED THE PUNISHER THROUGH AN ASSAULT AND YOU DIDN'T MAKE ONE JOKE ABOUT "THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND." WHEN DOES SPIDER-MAN NOT--

PUMPKIN BOMB!
THWIP
...JOKE.
BOOM!
AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, HE'S RIGHT. THE ODDS ARE *AGAINST* ME, BUT I'D STILL RATHER NOT RELY ON HELP FROM ANYONE UNLESS I *HAVE* TO.
AHHHHH!
IF YOU CAN CALL IT "HELP."
BURN ME FROM ABOVE, WILL YA?
RATATATA TATATAT!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE FIRING, YOU DOLT!
HE CAN'T SEE, SPIDER-MAN. HE'S SIMPLY RESPONDING TO EXTERIOR STIMULI.
PING!
PANG!
PANG!
PANG!
THEN HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STUPID ENOUGH TO GET BLINDED.
CRACK
NOT THE BEST TIME TO ALIENATE THE REMAINDER OF YOUR FRIENDS HERE, SPIDER-MAN.
RATA TATA TAT!
THESE WEREN'T FRIENDS, CASTLE. THEY WERE HIS HENCHMEN.
THEY'RE NEITHER! MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT. THESE ARE JUST MEN DISGUISED AS MY PATROL. MY ACTUAL PATROLS ARE STILL ON THE MAIN FLOOR ABOVE US.
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD CALL THEM...

BECAUSE WE'RE IN OVER OUR HEADS.
CASTLE! DOWN!
BOOOOM!

LURING YOU DOWN HERE WAS OUR JOB, SPIDER-MAN, BUT KILLING YOU WILL BE OUR PLEASURE.
UNH.
SPIDER-MAN, STAND BACK!
NO!
WHACK!
WHEN I WANT YOUR HELP I'LL ASK FOR IT.
THEN CALL YOUR DAMN MEN IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO TRUST US.

I'M TRYING. BUT ALL FREQUENCIES ARE BEING BLOCKED.
AND THE CODES ON THE DOORS HAVE BEEN CHANGED.
WE'RE ON OUR OWN DOWN HERE!
GREAT! THEN HOW ABOUT A FEW TRUST EXERCISES?
LIKE FALLING BACKWARDS ONTO MY BLADE AND SEEING IF I CATCH YO--
WAIT. THAT SOUND.
IT'S MY GLIDER.
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. I TOLD YOU, I NEVER TOOK YOUR GLIDER.
SURE YOU DIDN'T. NOW WHO WANTS TO TALK ABOUT TRUST?
PUNISHER, YOU MORON! YOU'RE AIMING RIGHT FOR ME!
I KNOW.

MY EYE-SIGHT IS GETTING BETTER.
I BARELY GET OUT OF THE WAY IN TIME.
RATATATATAT
BAM!
UNGH!
AND I NEEDED YOU TO CAMOUFLAGE THE SHOT.
THESE GLIDERS...
UNGH! ALL HAVE THE SAME VISUAL DETECTION SYSTEMS.
THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT ONE'S YOURS?

BECAUSE MINE'S ARMED WITH GOVERNMENT-ISSUE DRONE MISSILES.
FSHOO!
FSHOO!
BOOOOOOM!
PLUS IT'S GOT A @#& SKULL ON IT!
YOU IDIOT! THAT WAS AN EXPENSIVE PIECE OF MACHINERY!
AND OUR LIVES ARE WORTH MORE THAN IT.
IN FACT, EVERYTHING DOWN HERE IS PUTTING US IN DANGER. WE NEED TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD.
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF SELF-DESTRUCT SYSTEM IN THIS PLACE.
NO.

YOU'RE LYING.
OF COURSE I'M LYING, YOU IMBECILE. THIS ENTIRE WING IS WHERE I KEEP ALL MY PROTOTYPES. I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO HAVE IT PROTECTED.
AND WHAT GOOD IS BEING SURROUNDED BY THE OCEAN IF YOU CAN'T HAVE TONS OF WATER READY TO FLOOD THIS AREA THE MOMENT I'M NOT HERE TO DEFEND IT?
THEN DO IT!
BUT I'M HERE TO DEFEND IT!
AND YOU'RE LOSING!
I'LL HOLD THEM OFF WHILE YOU OPEN THE FLOOD GATES.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT I CAN!
YOU BETTER HOPE THERE IS.

BEEP BEEP BOOP
THESE CODES HAVE BEEN CHANGED, TOO! THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT NOW IS MANUALLY.
THEN DO IT.
KRAK
BUT THE TIME THAT WENT INTO MAKING THIS EQUIPMENT WAS EXTENSIVE.
STOP STALLING!
CRUNCH!

THE LEVEL OF POWER I ACHIEVED ON THESE MODELS IS UNPARALLELED.
JUST DO IT!
I HOPE THIS MAKES YOU HAP
AHHHHHHHH!
CLANG!

Phoenix

DEAR GOD!

SWOOSH!
THEY SAY "PRIDE COMETH BEFORE THE FALL."
WHOEVER ORCHESTRATED THIS ATTACK KNEW JUST HOW TO USE MY EGO AGAINST ME. LEAVING ME WITH NOTHING.
MY CONFIDENCE? GONE!
THE MONTHS OF RESEARCH CREATING NEW EQUIPMENT. GONE!
THE AIR IN MY LUNGS...
ALMOST GONE.

AND WHILE TODAY SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW FAITH CAN BE RESTORED...
GASP!
DID WE GET EVERYONE?
SEEMS THERE ARE A FEW STRAYS.
PING!
PING!
PANG!
...THE SEEDS OF DOUBT HAVE BEEN SECURELY PLANTED.
THE SUICIDE BOMBER SAID I HAVE NO IDEA HOW DEEP THIS GOES. AND SO I'M LEFT TO WONDER...
WAS PUNISHER REALLY TRYING TO SHOOT ME EARLIER?
BAM!
CORRECTION. WE GOT THEM ALL.
CRASH
OR WORSE STILL, DID DAREDEVIL JUST GET ME TO DESTROY MY NEW WEAPONS IN ORDER TO LEAVE ME IMPAIRED?
HOLD ON, SPIDER-MAN. YOU NEED TO REST FOR A SEC.

AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH TODAY, I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY ANSWERS. STILL DON'T KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS.
ALTHOUGH I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE MY SUSPICIONS.
FOR THE RECORD, I STILL DON'T APPROVE OF YOUR METHODS. IT'S ONE THING TO WASH THESE GUYS OUT TO SEA, BUT--
SHUT UP, DEVIL! WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW WHO CAN GET INTO A MAN'S MIND LIKE THIS.
WHO WOULD STRIKE ON SUCH A PERSONAL LEVEL.
EVEN THOUGH I PURGED PARKER FROM MY BRAIN, THIS BODY I'M IN IS STILL HIS...
NO.
CERTAIN PHYSICAL RESPONSES CAN'T HELP BUT BE REFLEXIVE.
CERTAIN TRIGGERS, PAVLOVIAN.
I TELL MYSELF THIS BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION I HAVE...

FOR THE CHILL THAT RUNS DOWN MY SPINE.
NOOOO!
WHAT IS IT?
HOW CAN I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?
RELAX. YOU WON THIS BATTLE.
BUT I MIGHT HAVE JUST LOST THE WAR.
The End

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP

ELLIE PYLE
EDITOR

STEPHEN WACKER
SENIOR EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

Send e-mail to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)